**Khrushchev De-Stalinization and Peaceful Coexistence**

**1955: Khrushchev consolidated hold on Soviet leadership**

**Khrushchev’s Beliefs:**

* **longed for a more manageable & stable world, but in the name of revolution**
* **believed USSR wronged by USA after WW II**
* **Cold War resulted from continuation of policies of isolation, non-recognition & intervention by western powers dating back to Russian Civil War**
* **opportunistic & sabre rattler, i.e. “we will bury you”**

**1956: The Year of Crisis**

**Feb. 1956: Krushchev’s Speech at 20th Party Congress**

* **denounced Stalin for committing crimes and harming USSR—use of terror, many deaths, arrogance & harm to Russia**
* **attacked cult of personality**
* **more interested in social justice**
* **recognized rights of satellite states to go own way—“national ways to socialism”**
* **reconciliation w/Tito & Yugoslavia—break blamed on Stalin**
* **rejected the idea of the “inevitability of global war”**

**What if Satellite States wanted more independence than Soviets willing to give?**

**Polish Crisis, June-October 1956**

* **June: workers riots broke out**
* **Communist Party turned to Wladyslaw Gomulka (Stalin had removed from power) to restore order**
* **Soviets worried Gomulka become too independent**
* **ordered Red Army troops to stop election Gomulka expected to win**
* **Gomulka refused to stop elections, but did pledge to keep Poland in Warsaw Pact**
* **problems in Hungary led to Khrushchev accepting Gomulka’s pledge & turn focus to Hungary**

**Hungarian Uprising, July-November 1956**

* **July: Stalinist leader replaced by more liberal Erno Gero (supported by Krushchev & Tito)**
* **Tito hoped new Hunagrian leadership would look to him instead of Moscow—strengthen his position in Soviet Bloc**
* **October: demonstration to support Polish farmers led to great disturbances**
* **Khrushchev sent in 30,000 Soviet troops w/tanks**
* **Gero’s government falls**
* **Imre Nagy new leader of Hungary: independent minded, reformer**
* **Khrushchev stayed committed to his policy of greater freedom & pulled Soviet troops out of Hungary**
* **1 Nov: Nagy announced Hungary would withdraw from Warsaw Pact & planned to share power w/non-communists**
* **Khrushchev faced with serious choice**

**The Suez Crisis, July-Nov 1956**

* **Egyptian President Gamal Nasser forming closer ties w/USSR**
* **US cancelled loan to help pay for Aswan Dam**
* **Nasser turns to USSR for funding & nationalizes Suez Canal (owned by Anglo-French company)**
* **16 Oct: Brit, Fr & Israel work out plan for combined invasion of Egypt & retaking Suez Canal—Israel invades, heads to Suez Canal, Brit & Fr would intervene to “protect canal”**
* **29 Oct: Israel invaded—Brit & Fr demand withdrawal of Israeli & Egyptian troops fro canal**
* **Nasser rejects Brit & Fr demands**
* **31 Oct: Brit planes bomb Egyptian airfields (peak of Hungarian crisis)**
* **& france.jpg 5 Nov: Brit & Fr troops land in canal zone**
* **Khrushchev convinced Nasser would fall from power & ↓ Soviet influence in Middle East**
* **Soviet setbacks in Hungary would further ↓ Soviet prestige & maybe power**

**What did Khruschcev do?**

* **what would US do?**

**Hungary:**

* **4 Nov: Soviet troops & tanks into Budapest, Hungary**
* **several days of fierce fighting**
* **eventually new govt loyal to USSR—led by Janos Kader**
* **Nagy arrested & later executed**

**Suez:**

* **5 Nov: threatened nuclear attacks on Brit, Fr & Israel if did not stop war—western intelligence knew USSR did not have rocket power to carry out threat**
* **6 Nov: cease fire announced**

**Eisenhower’s Actions**

* **suspected Khrushchev willing to risk war over losing Hungary—no desire to intervene → accurate**
* **saw Suez as desperate attempt to strengthen their weakening empires in Middle East & Africa → accurate**
* **middle of re-election campaign**
* **furious at Brit, Fr & Israel for their scheming & provocative actions**
* **condemned their actions at the UN**
* **pulled US financial assistance (major loan) from Brit**
* **put economic & military pressure of Brit & Fr**
* **persuaded Brit & Fr to stop fighting same time as Khrushchev nuclear threat**